International Studies Council
Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2023
ZOOM Hybrid

Chair: Bogdan Prokopovych **Recorder:** Kimberly Stender

Participants: Ann Becker (Nursing), Irena Bozin (UWW), Richard Chu (HFA), Irene Dujovne (CNS), Mark Eckman (IPO), Julia Feldhaus (HFA), Cai Fischietto (Libraries) Stephen Forrest (HFA), Justin Gross (SBS), Jaikai Lu (CNS), Melina Masterson (HFA), Marjorie Melnick (HFA), Bjorn Nordtveit (COEd), Simon Oswald (HFA), Elsa Petit (CNS), Daniel Pope (HFA), Krishna Poudel (SPHHS), Ken Reade (IPO), Anisha Shonda (SGA), Jackie Urla (Graduate School), Janna White (Five College Center for World Languages)

Sent Regrets: Madalina Akli (CHC), Tobias Baskin (CNS), Fareed Mohammed (GSS), David Rodriguez-Solas (HFA), Kalpen Trivedi (IPO), Laura Vandenberg (ORE)

Guests: Sam Tran (SGA), Pius M (secretary, GSS International Student Affairs committee)

1. **Approve Minutes from November , 2023**
   Irena Dujovne moved to approve the minutes and Stephen seconded. The motion passed with 3 abstentions.

2. **COPE Update**
   Steve reported that the following courses were approved by COPE and require ISC approval.

   10339 - Convert an Experimental Course to a Permanent Course: SCH-MGMT 360Business in Italy 05/03/2023
   10286 - Convert an Experimental Course to a Permanent Course: HT-MGT 331Cultural Tourism 04/20/2023

   Some members suggested that a vote should be postponed since course descriptions were not provided prior to this meeting. It was agreed to provide course descriptions along with the agenda moving forward and the Chair stated that he would hold a vote by e-mail along with the course descriptions after the meeting.

   Following this, there was a discussion of the role of ISC in promoting the study of foreign languages and whether there were opportunities for greater integration of language study into UMass faculty-taught programs. Steve and Mark explained how the COPE review process works and that the detailed planning and approval of the program happens in that Committee before a recommendation to ISC. Steve called for interested members to join COPE. Elsa suggested that COPE and the Ad Hoc Language Proficiency Committee consult together on how language study could be encouraged.

3. **ERG-International Faculty/Staff Update**
   Richard invited Pius M (secretary of the Graduate Student Senate International Student Affairs committee) to discuss the challenges and experiences of international graduate students. After hearing from Pius, Ken and Jackie presented various programming, mentoring, and academic support workshops and activities offered by both the Graduate School and IPO to support students. Ken also reminded the Council that IPO has a dedicated staff member who works with GSS and other international student groups and is the point person for any international student experiencing challenges and can help to connect the dots on the various support services and programs available through campus offices.

4. **IPO Update**
   Ken reported that there are no major issues or concerns regarding education abroad or international student/scholar services as the semester draws to a close.

5. **Adjourn**
   Bogdan adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m. The next ISC meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2024.